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TECHNICALITY ONCE OF USE

Undoubtedly Served Good Purpose When Criminal Laws Were So Unreasonably Severe.

You remember the trial scene in "The Merchant of Venice." The "quality of mercy" has failed. The learned Daniel of Judgment has refused the plea to "wrest once the law to your authority." Shylock is whetting his knife for the pound of flesh. And then—"Tarry a little, there is something else. The bond doth give thee here no jot of blood"—a technicality. All through the English law of the period I am discussing, English criminal lawyers, with the connivance of humane English judges, were playing the part of Portia, inventing ingenious excuses by which humanity might triumph over barbarism. Here is a man indicted for stealing a sheep—penalty, death. The proof was that he stole a ewe, but the statute used the word "ewe" as well as "sheep," and the prisoner escaped. He had not stolen a sheep.

In 1827, an indictment read that the jurors "on their oath," instead of "on their oaths," charged a man with a crime and for this reason the indictment was found defective and on this technicality the prisoner was discharged.

That these technicalities were in their own time undesirable substitutes for the law reform must be admitted. But they had a reason for existence, due to the barbarous condition of the criminal law.—World's Work.

OYSTER NOT GOOD FOR ALL

Many Stomachs to Which It Is Not a Welcome Visitor, According to Physician.

It is popularly supposed that the oyster digests himself in the human stomach owing to the great size of the liver, which is crushed as mastication begins and is thought to digest the mollusk itself. As the oyster, moreover, contains some ten per cent. of extremely assimilable protein, together with phosphorized fats and glycogen, it has always been freely administered to convalescents, while dyspeptic boys vivants have never hesitated to eat it abundantly.

Doctor Pron expresses the opinion that the oyster may be allowed, therefore, to those dyspeptics whose gastric functions are deficient, in anorexia, gastric atony, ulcer and incipient cancer, and to convalescents from acute disease, as it is likely to improve the appetite and to excite the stomach to increased motor and chemical activity.

But to the large number of dyspeptics whose stomachs are hyperacid or hypersensitive Doctor Pron would forbid the oyster as well as all other stimulating foods. In many of these dyspeptics the gastric secretion is already sufficient, and it is unnecessary and unwise to increase it.

What Came Up.

An Englishman was driving around County Tipperary one warm day, when he came across a farmer setting potatoes. Thinking to have a joke with him, he began:

"Well, Pat, what are you planting?"
 "Potatoes, sir," said Pat.
 "Do you think potatoes will come up?" asked the Englishman.

"Of course," said Pat.
 "Why, I set onions last year in our garden, and carrots came up," said the Englishman.

"Oh," said Pat. "I set an acre of turnips last year in that field over there, and do you know what came up?"

"No," replied the Englishman.
 "Mike Murphy's old black donkey, and ate them all," answered Pat.

Mean Insinuation.

She was a plump widow with two charming daughters. She had been a "relic" just a year, and was beginning to wear her "weeds" lightly. All the same when the new curate called upon her she sighed:

"Ah, I feel the loss of my poor, dear husband very much. I never have any appetite for anything now."

The curate was all sympathy, and in the endeavor to cheer her by pointing out what a comfort to her her daughters must be, replied:

"I can quite understand that, but you are so alone in—"

"S-s-r-r!" interrupted the indignant lady, "allow me to inform you that I am not alone in at all."

Lloyds.

The earliest reference to the famous underwriters' association known as Lloyds appears about the year 1688, in the London Gazette. This great commercial establishment had its origin in a "coffee house" kept by one Edward Lloyd, in Tower street, London, where certain merchants were in the habit of meeting for gossip or business. In 1692 Lloyd moved to Lombard street, where he virtually began the business which is now so well known all over the world under his name.

When Willie Took Action.

"Dick, the minister will be here for supper," said his mother, "and you must wait and have yours after we are through."

Just before the supper was ready Dick slipped into the dining room and crawled under the table.

When the time came to serve the dessert the minister praised the cake very highly and was enjoying the second piece, when Dick called out from under the table:

"Don't you eat all that cake. I want some."

Those Bad Spells.

Lebanon Jet, Ky.—Mrs. Minnie Lamb, of this place, says: "I believe I would have been dead by now, had it not been for Cardui. I haven't had one of those bad spells since I commenced to use this medicine." Cardui is a specific medicine for the ills from which women suffer. Made from harmless, vegetable ingredients, Cardui is a safe, reliable remedy, and has been successfully used by weak, ailing women for more than fifty years. Thousands of women have been helped back to health and happiness by its use. Why not profit by their experience? A trial will convince you that Cardui is just what you need.

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AT THE CHURCHES.

Cumberland Presbyterian Church—J. B. Eshman, Pastor.
 Sunday School at 9:30.
 Preaching at 11 a. m.
 Christian Endeavor 6:15.
 Preaching at 7:15 p. m.

First Baptist Church—Rev. C. M. Thompson, Pastor. Services as usual.
 Sunday School—9:30 a. m.
 Morning Service—11:00 a. m.
 B. Y. P. U.—6:00 p. m.
 Evening Service—7:00 p. m.

Second Baptist Church—Rev. W. R. Goodman, Pastor.
 Sunday School—9:45 a. m.
 Preaching—11 a. m.
 Preaching—7:30 p. m.
 Prayer meeting every Wednesday night—7:15 p. m.

Methodist Episcopal Church—Rev. A. R. Kasey, Pastor.
 Sunday School—9:30 a. m.
 Morning Service—10:45 a. m.
 Epworth League—6:30 p. m.
 Evening Service—7:30 p. m.
 Prayer meeting at 7:30 p. m. every Wednesday.

Westminster Presbyterian Church—Rev. C. H. H. Branch, Pastor.
 Sunday School—9:30 a. m.
 Men's Bible Class—10:00 a. m.
 Morning Service—11:00 a. m.

First Presbyterian Church—Sunday School—9:30 a. m.
 Christian Endeavor—6:15 p. m.
 Weekly Prayer Meeting—Wednesday—7:15 p. m.

Interest Grows

of the Legislature.

The first few weeks are never the busiest nor the most sensational.

And the Most Important Part of the Session, Over Half of it, is Yet to Come.

From now until the latter part of March, when the General Assembly adjourns, every day will have its big news in which your Representatives will be having a hand.

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ALWAYS SIGN OF TROUBLE

"Death Watch Beetle" Not What Its Name Implies, but is Recognized as General Nuisance.

Superstition always falls to the ground before science, and now the old death-watch beetle is to receive its quietus. It is one of the oldest superstitions known to mankind that when you hear that tapping on wood, death is hovering nigh. When, however, the cause of the tapping is traced, we find nothing but a small beetle, which makes the noise by tapping on the wood. The real reason for the tapping is said to be the call of this insect for its mate. If you want to prove that this is the case, the very next time you hear the "death-watch," take up a key and tap on the table as much like its tap as you can. You will then be answered by the beetle, for he thinks it is the female answering his call. The entomologists call him an obolus pertinax, and he certainly has a pertinacious way of tap-tap-tapping, until you get the "creeps."

If you take a light and look for him, following the tapping, you will find a very small bug, that upon your approach draws in his head and feelers and lies there as if dead. He is the opossom of the insect world. But he is an awful bore; in fact, his reason for living is to bore into the wood and furniture made of wood, in order to make a place for the female to deposit her eggs. These eggs when hatched become the "worms," which work their way through the finest wood, leaving the borings, which are considered anything but decorative, except by the Japanese, who use worm-eaten designs with clever effect. This little beetle does portend death by his tapping, but it is not



The Death-Watch Beetle.

death to human beings, only destruction to fine old mahogany. He is not particular, and the finest furniture is good enough for him; so that when he taps, be on the lookout and drive him away, or you may find some choice bit of furniture ruined by his persistence.

Nobleman Becomes Curate.

Lord Mountmorres who has just been ordained and licensed to the curacy in the Isle of Wight, is an Irish peer, and therefore, has no hereditary seat in the house of lords. But there are four notable clerics in that chamber. Among the quartet is one who was formerly a well-known West end vicar, the earl of Stafford.

Before he succeeded his brother in the titles, Lord Stafford was vicar of St. Peter's, Cranley gardens, and was at the same time chaplain to the speaker for 15 years. In 1889 he was appointed grand chaplain of Freemasonry in England.

The marquis of Normandy had been vicar of St. Mark's, Worsley, Manchester, for 18 years, when the death of his father gave him a seat in the house of lords, and after giving up his living he was for many years a canon of St. George's chapel at Windsor.

Lord Scarsdale, the father of Earl Curzon, ex-viceroy of India, has been rector of Kedleston for well over half a century; while Lord Blythswood, who succeeded his brother a few years ago, had previously been a curate at Nunceaton and Gateshead and vicar or rector at Nonington, Kent, Derby, London and Glasgow.

Wireless for Fishermen.

Another advance in applying wireless telegraphy to minimize the perils of the sea has been taken by one of the British fishing companies operating in the North sea. A ship fitted with an apparatus of a 200 mile range is to be posted near the Dogger bank.

"The admiral's boats," attached to each fishing fleet are also to be equipped with wireless installations. These will be in constant communication with the stationary vessel, and their whereabouts recorded on a chart at the shore station. In addition to the convenience this will mean to owners in knowing the movements of the fleet and the state of the catch, it will be of valuable aid in summoning aid for the boats in time of peril. Hitherto there have been anxious times ashore whenever a search boat has returned without news of the fleet, and many a fishing crew has been lost through being powerless to call for assistance. Further, wireless communication will necessarily imply a saving in the cost of fishing.

Valuable Postage Stamps.

One of the most interesting romances of collecting is recalled by the find of autograph letters in Sardinia.

The most valuable stamp in existence is the "Post Office" Mauritius, which is worth about \$7,500. Just after the postal authorities had received the issue the post office was destroyed in a hurricane.

But the governor had given a ball and as an act of courtesy had sent invitations to friends in England. The only specimens of the stamp known to exist are those which were affixed to the envelopes of these invitations.

Mentioning No Names.

"I see where a well known noble man has proved himself an excellent tango dancer."

"Well, he has plenty of time to practice," the rich American father-in-law said to himself an excellent pro-

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